

PLENARY SESSION

JANUARY 3, 1968—10:10 A.M.

PRESIDENT H. VERNON ENEY,
PRESIDING

THE PRESIDENT: The Convention will please come to order.

The invocation this morning will be offered by the Reverend John N. Crock of the Christian Community Presbyterian Church at Bowie. Reverend Crock is Delegate Mentzer's pastor.

Reverend Crock.

REVEREND CROCK: Shall we pray:

Eternal Father, we know that Your presence encompasses the earth but we acknowledge you here in this place. We know that You are without form, but we see you best in the majesty of the world we know, and in the strength and compassion of our fellow men.

We know, too, that You need no praise, yet we would praise you now.

We rejoice, O Lord, in the capacities of mind and will which enable us to meet the challenges of life. Help us to realize our own potentials and to pave the way for all men to find fullness of life through our work today.

Amen.

THE PRESIDENT: Roll call.

Has every delegate answered the roll call?

The Clerk will record the roll call.

There being a quorum present, the Convention is in session.

The Chair recognizes Delegate Powers.

DELEGATE POWERS: Mr. President, I move that today's calendar and agenda be amended so that under Item 9, unfinished business, would be added the special orders that were not completed yesterday, namely, Committee Recommendation LB-1 as amended by Style Committee Report S&D-16 and Committee Recommendation GP-6, as amended by Style Committee Report S&D-12, and as amended, that the calendar and agenda be adopted.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there a second?

(The motion was duly seconded.)

THE PRESIDENT: All in favor signify by saying Aye; contrary, No. The

Ayes have it. The calendar is amended as moved, and as amended is adopted.

There are several announcements. I made one earlier. A grey Thunderbird automobile is in the parking lot with lights on. If any of you recognize it, you had better take care of it.

Are there any reports of other committees, Mr. Clerk?

READING CLERK: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No reports.

Are there any motions or resolutions?

READING CLERK: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair hears none.

There are several announcements that I would like to make in order to remove any misunderstanding as a result of an announcement I made yesterday. This has to do with amendments on third reading, but I think I had better defer it until some of the absentees are here. I will interrupt the proceedings later on to make the announcement. We will resume consideration of the special orders. We still have under consideration section 3.23 of Committee Recommendations LB-1, LB-2 and LB-3.

I cannot help saying that while any historian reading the newspaper stories concerning this Convention would conclude that the issues which had provoked the most debate and division were those having to do with single-member districts, and the collective bargaining provision, I think he would be quite wrong, because I am completely convinced now that the one section that has provoked more stress, strain, consultation, discussion, revision, change, correction, third revision, fifth revision and endless revisions, is section 3.23. I was more than a little dismayed at midnight last night, after we had adjourned, to have several delegates come into my office and say that the one thing that was abundantly clear about the discussion that had occurred just before adjournment was that it was not clear, and that the meaning of the two amendments before the Convention was not thoroughly understood by the delegates.

This poses a real problem, because this is a vital issue. It is one that is highly technical. It is one that is very difficult to explain to a layman and, unfortunately, it is one that the lawyers seem to love to debate endlessly.